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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Maria Laura Gennaro

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PATENT DOCKET ADMINISTRATOR
LOWENSTEIN SANDLER PC
65 LIVINGSTON AVENUE
ROSELAND, NJ 07068

EXAMINER

SWARTZ, RODNEY P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1645

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/16/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's Response to Office Action, received 14 April 2008, is acknowledged. Claims 3, 4, 7, 9, and 10 have been amended. Claims 2 and 8 have been canceled.
2. Claims 3-7, 9 and 10 are pending and under consideration.

Rejections Moot or Withdrawn

3. The rejection of claims 2 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed et al (WO98/16645, 23 April 1998), is moot in light of the cancellation of the claims.

Rejections Maintained

4. The rejection of claims 3-7, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed et al (WO98/16645, 23 April 1998), is

Applicant argues that one of skill in the art would not be motivated to: (1) select the specific amino acid sequence described in Reed et al out of the extensive list of 209 possible sequence choices; and the (2) incorporate a DNA sequence encoding the amino acid sequence into a vector, cell, or composition as presently claimed. In addition, applicant argues that Reed et al mention SEQ ID NO: 110 only once, without a description of its function, use, or characteristics.

The examiner has considered applicant's arguments, but does not find them persuasive. The claims are drawn to a product, i.e., DNA, vectors and cells comprising said DNA. Reed et al do teach the claimed sequence of MTBN4, SEQ ID NO:110, and an isolated DNA comprising the DNA which encodes SEQ ID NO:110. In addition, Reed et al do teach vectors and host cells comprising DNA. Thus, it would have been obvious to utilize the specific DNA encoding SEQ ID NO:110 for production of vectors and host cells.

Conclusion

5. No claims are allowed.
6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Rodney P. Swartz, Ph.D., Art Unit 1645, whose telephone number is (571) 272-0865. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 7:30 PM EST. Thursday is the examiner's work at home day.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, please contact the Examiner's Supervisors, Shannon Foley (571)272-0898, and Robert B. Mondesi (571)272-0956.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Art Unit: 1645

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Rodney P. Swartz, Ph.D./

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1645

September 3, 2008